

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Minutes - Thursday, July 22, 2010

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 6:30 p.m. Members present were Chairperson Tom Ragonese, Dan Silbo, Charlie Wood and Carmelo Amoddio. Also present was Kathleen Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – June 24, 2010.

Charlie Wood moved to approve the minutes of June 24, 2010. The motion was seconded by Dan Silbo and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – June 2010.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members. Chairperson Ragonese noted that the pools were very busy due to the hot weather. He commented on the Teen Theater's production of 'Footloose' being held tonight, tomorrow night and Saturday at the Silas Deane Middle School. The Board meeting started at 6:30 p.m. so that the director could make the musical at 7:30 p.m. Chairperson Ragonese also commented on the success of the new Rugby program with over 100 children registered. Ms. Bagley noted that all the summer programs are going well and attendance is high.

D. Letters and Announcements.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that he sent thank you letters to the volunteers who built the press box at the lighted Little League field. Thank you letters were sent to Bill Livingston, Mike Orsini and Steve Bruno for all their work.

Charlie Wood commented that he had seen the new street sign for Mill Woods Park road named in honor of Dick Dobmeier. He thought the sign and location looked good. Other Board members concurred.

E. Old Business.

1. Cove Docks and Boat Launch Ramp Proposed Plan.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Council approved the plan for replacing the docks and boat ramp at their meeting on July 6, 2010. Next step is to submit the plan to the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection. This process can take up to one year for approval from the State.

2. New Playground Equipment at Mill Woods Park.

Ms. Bagley reported that installation is scheduled to start the following Monday. The equipment has been delivered.

F. New Business.

1. Mill Woods Lighted Little League Field.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that a problem had developed with the turf at this field. With the hot dry weather it looked like the turf got very dry and was burning out. It appeared that the field was not getting enough water from the irrigation system. Mr. Ragonese had a meeting with the Town Manager, Jeff Bridges and Roberto Giansiracusa, President of Little League about this issue. Mr. Bridges has the maintenance division investigating the problems and has directed them to fix the field. Chairperson Ragonese explained that there were some problems with the irrigation system working appropriately and that the turf may have a fungus due to the hot weather. Dr. Dest has also been called in to help with these problems. Chairperson Ragonese said that everyone wants to work together to correct the problems. He spoke with Patrick Griffin, a member of the Mill Woods Park Building Committee, and a professional landscaper about the field conditions. Mr. Griffin said that the turf will come back and that the field is not as bad as it looks. He did say that work needs to be done on this field to get the turf to

return to normal. Board members discussed the maintenance of all park facilities. They did not feel the park facilities, especially the lighted Little League field, were getting enough maintenance time. Board members recommended that the Town consider putting some resources from maintenance staff for spring and summer under the Parks and Recreation director and provide appropriate equipment for them to use in the parks.

2. Grant for Mill Woods Park.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Town has submitted a grant request to the State through the STEAP program for improvements to Mill Woods Park. These improvements include construction of the Little League parking lot, installation of drainage on the Mill Woods beach and improvements to the main park road. These improvements total \$500,000. The Town also submitted another grant request for \$500,000 for economic developments through this STEAP program. Town staff are not sure if any grant request will be funded by the State.

3. Keane Carnival.

Ms. Bagley commented that the Keane Carnival will be held again this October. She asked if Board members had any problems with this event, because the Keane Foundation was asking Town Council for approval for the next five years. They also want the carnival to close at 10 p.m. Board members supported this event and had no problem with the Keane Foundation asking permission for the next five years or closing at 10 p.m., as long as all town policies and procedures are followed.

4. Water Playground in Memory of Loretta Nakos Pemble.

Ms. Bagley gave Board members an overview of a proposal from the family and friends of Loretta Nakos Pemble. This group is researching the possibility of funding a water playground in one of the town parks in her memory. Preliminary plans are being put together for this proposal. In the near future, this group will attend a board meeting to present their ideas.

G. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Dan Silbo and seconded by Carmelo Amoddio to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department